Resources for Sustaining Community Coalitions

Creating sustainable coalitions, organizations and programs is a hot topic in dialogue among groups working in the field of substance abuse prevention, and many other fields as well. What does a group do when funding for a successful program is reduced or evaporates? How do coalitions plan for ongoing (sustainable) prevention initiatives in an ever-changing community setting with shifting funding sources and programmatic emphasis? Is funding the primary concern or is there more to being *sustainable*?

Sustaining a coalition is dependent upon a coalition's *own capacity* to be flexible and adapt to the changing environment. The community environment in which coalitions operate is in a continual state of flux. There are changing issues, membership, leadership, affiliations, skills, task forces, projects, programs, and funding. Coalitions need a variety of tools to increase their own capacity to take action – action that has an impact on the community. The following is a collection of online and other resources for consideration to support ongoing coalition development.

Preventiondss.org
This extensive website provides an abundance of tools for prevention professionals, service providers and community coalitions. Click the library tab, then click "capacity development resources" for a number of resources and tools to support coalitions.
http://www.preventiondss.org

The Community Toolbox – Strategies for Sustaining the Initiative
The University of Kansas sponsors this website with myriad tools for communities. This section contains links to resources including planning, grant writing, fiscal management, nonprofit status, strategies for sustaining initiatives, attracting support for programs, and marketing.
http://ctb.lsi.ukans.edu/tools/en/sub_section_related_1330.htm

Journal of Extension – Assessing Your Collaboration, A Self-Evaluation Tool
This website describes the research and support for collaboration including a self-evaluation tool for coalitions to use to measure initial and ongoing collaboration. The self-assessment exercise allows groups to rate their collaboration on key factors including goals, communication, sustainability, evaluation, political climate, resources, catalysts, policies/laws/regulations, history, connectedness, leadership, community development, and understanding community.
http://www.joe.org/joe/1999april/tt1.html

Sustainable Communities Network (SCN)
SCN links citizens to resources and one another to create healthy, vital, and sustainable communities. This site addresses creating community, smart growth, economic growth, natural resources, governance/policy, education, learning, health, nutrition, and more.
http://www.sustainable.org/

Evaluation Instruments
(University of Wisconsin-Extension)
This site has evaluation instruments for surveying community group members, evaluating roles in community groups, and a community organizational assessment tool.
http://bluto.uwex.edu/ces/pdande/Evaluation/instruments.htm

Sustainability
This brief AHEC article by Tom Wolff, AHEC/Community Partners describes sustaining community efforts, what to do when funding dries up, fundraising and incorporating, policy change and the community.
http://www.ahecpartners.org/resources/documents/cb/sustainability.shtml

Center of Excellence for Sustainable Development
William Becker, Director of the Department of Energy's Denver Reional Office, offers advice on launching a community sustainability endeavor by breaking it down into ten individual steps. Each step is described, with links to related websites that provide further information, tools, or examples useful in carrying out that step.
http://www.sustainable.doe.gov/management/tensteps.shtml

Sustainable Measures
Sustainable Measures develop indicators that measure progress toward a sustainable economy, society and enviornment. This website has free training materials, a searchable database of indicators, explanation of indicators and sustainability, a list of online and print resources, and answers to frequently asked questions.
http://www.sustainablemeasures.com/

Coalition for Healthier Cities and Communities
This link provides access to a collection of websites for those committed to seeking solutions to urban and community issues. Here they network together to share their stories and find resources to assist them in their diverse efforts.
http://www.healthycommunities.org/

Community Coalitions: Identifying Changes in Coalition Members as a Result of Training

This article from the Journal of Extension describes a 5-year project of the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension funded by a grant from the US Department of Agriculture. The project's goal is to empower local communities to form coalitions that address the needs of youths and families at risk through increasing competencies at the local level through training.
http://www.joe.org/joe/1999april/rb2.html

CYFERNet: Chilren, Youth and Families Education and Research Network

This source focuses on the application of community-based research and evaluation for community based programs – with information and emphasis on collaboration and how to apply evaluation results to community based programs.
http://ag.arizona.edu/fcr/fs/cyfar/bulletin1.pdf

Building Coalitions (OSU-Youth)

This link from the Ohio State University's College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (YOUTH section) on BUILDING COALITIONS contains tools and resources for supporting community coalitions including assessment, facilitator guide, goal setting, developing members, evaluation, fund raising, mobilization, turf issues, understanding process and more.
http://ohioline.osu.edu/ (select Building Coalitions)

Innovation Network

Innovation Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to building the evaluation capacity of nonprofits so they can better serve communities. Founded in 1992, they continue to partner to build organizational capacity by focusing on continuous learning as the pathway to sustainable excellence.
http://www.innonet.org/services/webbasedtools.cfm

Echoes from the Field, a study commissioned by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, sharing best practices in nonprofit capacity building.
http://www.innonet.org/innonetworking/
Echoesrelease.cfm?CFID=54440&CFTOKEN=37390107&CFApp=1&

Other Resources

Collaboration Handbook: Creating, Sustaining, and Enjoying the Journey

Amherst H Wilder Foundation
http://www.wilder.org
Publishing Center
919 Lafond Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104
1-800-274-6024

The Courage to Lead: Transform Self, Transform Society

R. Brian Stanfield
New Society Publishers
P.O. Box 189
Gabriola Island, BC VOR 1XO, Canada
(also available from most major bookstores)

Community Building: What Makes It Work

Amherst H Wilder Foundation
http://www.wilder.org
Publishing Center
919 Lafond Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104
1-800-274-6024

Now Available on Your Desktop Computer!

Sustaining Community Coalitions: The Future of Community Coalitions (CADCA broadcast)

If you missed this broadcast and haven't tried this type media – there's no time like the present! CSAP's Southwest CAPT provides a link to this broadcast (and others) now available on your desktop computer.
http://www.swcapt.org/cybercafe.html

The broadcast is viewed using Microsoft's Media Player. If your computer is not already equipped with this player, you can download it FREE by following the link on the Southwest CAPT website or go to www.real.com.